

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-01
/084 W

-----140649Z 097450 /15

R 130830Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7324

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: GOP PRESSURE ON U.S. COMPANIES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE

REF: MANILA 7260

1. GEORGE SUTER OF PFIZER, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF AMCHAM, HAS PROVIDED COMATT MAY 13 WITH ANOTHER VERSION OF THE GOP CONCERN OVER ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE RESULTATNT GOP DESIRE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. COMPANIES BASED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

2. ACCORDING TO SUTER, THERE WAS NO THREAT, IMPLIED OR OTHERWISE, TO SECURE THE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. COMPANIES. THE GOP ALWAYS HAD A FRIENDLY AUDIENCE FROM THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND IT REALIZED THAT IT COULD OBTAIN THAT SUPPORT WITH "HONEY RATHER THAN VINEGAR." IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO MAKE A THREAT OR CREATE DIFFICULTIES, FOR THAT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. COMMENT: THE GOP HAS, HOWEVER, ALTERNATIVELY MET THE WISHES OF AMCHAM AND ALSO CREATED DIFFICULTIES, E.G. ANTI-DUMMY RULING ONLY 25- YEAR GUARANTEE ON LEASEBACK OF DONATED
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LANDS, AND RECENTLY PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON LOCAL BORROWING.

3. SUTER STATED THAT THOSE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO WANTED TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE PHILIPPINE IMAGE WOULD PROBABLY WRITE LETTERS UNDERTAKE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY WOULD BE ACTING ON

AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, AND THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE HEAD OFFICES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH THE GOP MESSAGE WANTED THE HEAD OFFICES TO BE INCLUDED. SUTER SAID THAT THE MONTHLY AMCHAM JOURNAL WOULD SOON CARRY A FAVORABLE REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR HISTORY OF MARTIAL LAW. SUTER, HOWEVER, WAS EMPHATIC THAT THE U.S. BUSINESSMEN WOULD NOT TALK ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, LET ALONE MENTION THAT TERM.

4. COMMENT: SUTER IS A KNOWN APOLGIST FOR THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME, AND HE CHARACTERIZED (PERHAPS NOT INACCURATELY) BILL MITCHELL AS AN ALARMIST AND PESSIMIST. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE ORIGINAL CONDUIT OF THE GOP MESSAGE AND ARE SEEKING TO TALK TO HIM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: 77 MANILA 7260
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SAS ID: 2537846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP PRESSURE ON U.S. COMPANIES OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE
TAGS: EINV, SHUM, RP, US
To: STATE
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